

W A Y S and M E A N S

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His M A J E S T Y may Man His

N A V Y

W I T H

England's Navy

Ten Thousand Able SAILORS, R-

O N

Short Notice, with less Expence to
the Government than at Present, and
entirely to the Benefit and Satisfaction
of the M E R C H A N T S.

The Second Edition.

L O N D O N :

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THE

PREFACE.

THE favourable Reception which this Pamphlet met with at its first Appearance in the World, which was at the Time when our late most excellent Sovereign, on his Discovery of the dangerous Conjunction, and Projects of the Emperor and the King of Spain, judg'd it adviseable, as well for his own Honour, as the Safety and Welfare of his People, to put his Navy in the most formidable Condition, has encourag'd me to a Republication of it at the present Juncture; which, I flatter myself, is the more seasonable, as the Subject it treats of, viz. the En-

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The Preface.

couragement of Sailors, is at this time under the Consideration of the British Senate, through his present Majesty's most Gracious and Royal Recommendation of it to them from the Throne. And, truly, when we consider of how great Consequence the Completion of this necessary Work must be to the Grandeur, Strength, and Felicity of the Kingdom, we cannot but think, that He has given us the strongest Evidence of his consummate Wisdom, Policy, and Greatness of Spirit, in distinguishing the Beginning of his Reign, by strenuously promoting the Accomplishment of one of the principal Blessings that can contribute to render his Crown, in the Security and Happiness of his People, Comfortable and Glorious to Him.

OUR Maritime Force, and Navigation, are, next to our Religion and Liberties, the nearest and tenderest Considerations in the World: The Sea is at once our Dominion and our Estate; our Naval Armament protects what our extensive Commerce enriches us with. Whilst our Neighbours repine at the considerable Advantages we have over them, they allow us, by that Repining, their

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Superiours, in a manner, that redounds most to our Honour. Whom then ought we in Prudence, Justice and Gratitude, to cherish with a truer Veneration, or a larger Spirit of Bounty, than those very Persons, who, by their Labour and Experience, are the sole Instruments of serving and exalting their Country in the two important Articles above-mention'd?

IT has been remark'd by some, that Great-Britain can never be destroy'd, but by herself. The Persons who made that Observation might possibly mean only the great Dangers and Calamities which arise from Party Distinctions, Animosities and Divisions amongst our selves, which, indeed, are often enough of fatal Consequences to a Nation; but give me leave to add, that the neglecting to give suitable Encouragement to, and suffering real Hardships to be impos'd on those, who can render themselves of most Use to its Welfare, might produce, in a length of Time, as terrible and destructive Effects; since it is obvious, that whatever checks and rebates the natural Genius and Vigour of our Seamen, or tends to alienate their Affections from

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the Service, is, of Course, drawing off so much of the Strength of the Nation, and stripping it of what is most essential to its Glory and Defence. It is discovering a kind of Ingratitude to Providence, by misusing the peculiar Distinction it has shewn us, in the Situation of our Country, preferable to that of any other in the World, and rousing up other Nations from a State of Submission, to Spirit of Standing in Competition with us for those illustrious Advantages, which nothing but our own Inactivity and Unguardedness can ever reduce us to part with.

BUT let it be the present Satisfaction of every honest and thinking BRITON, that, whatever Apprehensions of this Nature some amongst us may have formerly labour'd under, the PRINCE who is now upon the Throne of England, has signify'd it to be his Royal Care and Resolution to guard us against all such Terrors or Suspicions for the future. He has study'd, and has made himself perfectly acquainted with the Constitution of his Country, and the Spirit of his People, and consequently wants not to learn how much

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much more preferable it is to see his Navy mann'd with hearty and smiling Voluntiers, engag'd into the Service by tempting and liberal Encouragements, than with gloomy and discontented Spirits, brought on Board by harsh and compulsive Measures.

HOW far any Thing contain'd in the following Sheets, upon this Subject, may be judg'd worthy the least Attention of Those, to whose profound Deliberations the remedying the Condition of our Seamen is recommended, is humbly submitted to the Determination of that AUGUST ASSEMBLY, whose Knowledge of the real Interest of the Nation, is as Great, as their Study and Application to promote it, in all its Branches, is Sincere.

Febr. the 28th,

1728.

THOMAS ROBE.

AD.

ADVERTISEMENT.


THE underwritten Abstract of the
Contents of this Pamphlet, having,
at its first coming out, been
published in the Amsterdam
Gazette, the 28th of June,
1727. it is hoped it will not be censured
as too great a Vanity in the Author to
reprint it here.

ON vient de publier une Brochüre
en Anglois, intitulée: *Moyen de*
trouver promptement 10. mille Matelots,
pour équiper la Flote Royale à moins
de frais qu'on ne fait à présent, & pour
le bien & l'avantage des Négotians.
L'Auteur ayant établit, qu'il est de la
prudence d'assurer à la Grande-Bre-
tagne la superiorité des Forces Mari-
times, qui la rendent depuis long-tems
formidable à ses Ennemis, il ajoute:
que pour cet effet il est nécessaire de
faire un Acte du Parlement pour l'en-
“tretien

Advertisement

“ tretien de 10. mille Matelots à perpé-
“ tuité, pour le Service du Roi & de
“ l'Etat : Et qu'il se fait fort de dé-
“ montrer, que les Avantages que toute
“ la Nation retirera d'un tel Etablissem-
“ ment, feront qu'on ne se sentira pas de
“ cette Dépense extraordinaire : Que
“ l'Avance ou l'Engagement qu'on don-
“ neroit aux Matelots pour les enroller ;
“ & l'assurance qu'ils auroient de ne pas
“ être congediez du service de S. M.
“ après une courte Expedition, & obligez
“ de chercher ailleurs de quoi s'entre-
“ tenir, feroient que la Liste de 10.
“ mille Matelots feroit bien-tôt com-
“ plete : Que les occasions peu fréquen-
“ tes où ils feroient employez, leur se-
“ roient encore un encouragement à venir
“ s'enroller volontairement. Que comme
“ en tems de Paix, on entretient con-
“ tinuellement un très-grand nombre de
“ Manceuvres dans les Arsenaux & Chan-
“ tiers de S. M. pour la Marine, on pour-
“ roit y occuper une partie de ces 10.
“ mille Matelots, qui par le gain qu'ils
“ y feroient, feroient en état de mieux
“ entretenir eux & leurs Familles, &
“ de se rendre plus utiles à l'Etat en tems
“ du Guerre : Et que pour la même
“ raison, on pourroit permettre à une
“ partie

Advertisement

“ partie des 10. mille Matelots, de servir
“ pendant un an à bord des Vaisseaux
“ Marchands qui ne font pas de Voyages
“ de long cours, & qui trafiquent scule-
“ ment en France, ou en Irlande, ou
“ en Norvegue, d'où on peut les faire
“ revenir promptement en cas de besoin.
“ L'Auteur répond ensuite aux objections
“ qu'on pourroit former contre ce Projet,
“ & en même tems fait voir de quelle
“ maniere on peut le rendre praticable &
“ avantageux.



WAYS



W A Y S and M E A N S,

WHEREBY

His Majesty may man his Navy with
Ten Thousand able Sailors, &c.

HTHE happy Situation of *Great Britain*, and its boasted Security from the Insults of a Foreign Enemy, by its maritime Strength, added to its own natural Fortifications, cannot but engage every honest Member of the Community to contribute his best Wishes, and most zealous Endeavours towards the Preservation of such invaluable Blessings; nay, I insist upon it, it behoves the Inhabitants of so strong and flourishing a Nation, notwithstanding it has for a long time, and still seems to look down with

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Contempt on any impotent Menaces of those Kingdoms it may have occasion to dispute with, to be upon a constant and unwearied Guard, to maintain unimpaired that Advantage which Providence and the fine Disposition of the People to naval Affairs, gives it over all other Countries; for we have Instances in History, where Governments that have boasted, and not without some Reason, the Strength of their Establishment, not more from prudent and wholesome Laws, than their own outward Bulwarks and Fortifications, have either thro' an Indolent Presumption of Security, or too narrow an Encouragement to those who are the most necessary towards improving or preserving the Benefit of such Fortifications, been unwarily surprized, and sometimes entirely unhing'd by an Enemy they have been flatter'd by frequent Successes to despise. *Great Britain* indeed is at this time, and has been for many Years amply provided with the most ready Precautions against the least Danger of undergoing so unhappy and so irretrievable a Revolution; but I hope, nevertheless, I shall not be judg'd either a timid or an unworthy Subject, if I should use my ablest Endeavours to propose, in a manner that might deserve the least Inspection of the

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Legislative Body, a Method, whereby I humbly conceive, the present wise Administration may leave to latest Posterity a Plan, which, if rightly followed and observed by them, will secure to them as infallible a Bulwark of Defence as that, which at this time not only reflects a Glory on our own Country, but commands both the Dread and Homage of all *Europe*. By this Bulwark of Security, which I would have to be left as a Legacy to succeeding Ages, I believe every *Englishman* who has the least Knowledge of his own Country, will easily perceive, I mean only the Naval Force of *England* under the benign Influence of proper, certain and lasting Encouragement. The Land-Forces of *Great-Britain*, according to their yearly Establishment, being no more than what may properly be said to be in part for a necessary Guard to his Majesty's Person, and to discountenance any evil Attempts from that Spirit of Faction which has too long lurk'd, and has sometimes broke openly out amongst those whom their own sinister Views of Interest, or their Bigotry to a malignant Set of Principles, render Enemies to all the virtuous Inclinations of a good Prince, and the best Abilities of an honest and able

Ministry. Very far am I from wishing the least additional Assessment on the People, but on such desirable Terms, and to purchase such valuable Ends as will make their Contributions as voluntary as they may be useful.

The Splendour of a Crown may in Countries that groan under an arbitrary Power, be thought to consist more in the abject Vassalage and entire Resignation of the Subjects to the absolute Will and Authority of the Prince, than in the natural and voluntary Disposition of them to render themselves or their Sovereign in a Condition, to be either courted by the Neighbouring Nations for their Friendship, or dreaded for their Bravery, Resolution and Power. In ours, under so well temper'd a Mixture of the several Branches of Government, where one Part bears so happy a Connection with, and is so strong a Check (if any Occasion should ever happen for it) to any rash or imprudent Steps of the other, the Magnificence and Grandeur of the Crown is the free Affection of the People, from a Consciousness of their being indebted to it for their Preservation from any immediate Approach of Danger, and the most necessary Precautions against a future one. From the

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Duty therefore which as an *Englishman* I owe to my Country, from the Pride I conceive at seeing it not only capable of securing itself, but casting a Dread into all others, I am led to offer the following Thoughts to the Publick. And I cannot believe but that the Generality of those Persons who may be more particularly and nearly interested in what I shall propose, will think I have not made Choice of an improper Season at this Time to advance a few honest and zealous Observations on the Benefit of keeping up the naval Strength of this Kingdom. When his Majesty in his most gracious Speech at the opening of this Session of Parliament, recommended to the speediest Care of the House, the making an early Provision to enable him to fit out a strong Fleet by the beginning of the Spring, it cannot be denied, but that the Parliament pursued the Royal Instructions with the most cheerful Alacrity, nor has the Admiralty been less diligent and expeditious in taking all the most proper Measures in their Power, that the Parliamentary Provision might be laid out to the best Advantage, in obtaining a competent Number of the most able Sailors to man the Navy. Two Squadrons have already sailed to those

Parts

Parts where they may be most capable to act for the Benefit of the Nation and its Alliances, and another considerable one is at this time in a Readiness to execute whatever the State of Affairs may require. That this is an indisputable Evidence of our Strength and Security, preferable to that of any other Government, those only who are Enemies to our Happiness, and whose base Projects may be in danger of being disappointed by it, will have the open Imprudence to disallow. But if I presume to shew a Method, whereby, in my humble Sentiments, the same Felicity may be obtained and preserved on a much surer and more durable Foundation than at present, I flatter my self, that I shall not risque the Censure of any good and wise Man.

Were an Act of Parliament to be passed for establishing Ten Thousand able Seamen certain for ever for the King's Service, I shall venture to affirm, that I can plainly demonstrate, that the Advantages which would accrue to every Part of the Nation in general from it, would render the extraordinary Expence of such Establishment, if any at all, very inconsiderable. Should any one, startled at the very sound of such a large Number of Men, with-

without giving himself either Time or Patience to consult any farther the Merits of this Proposal, ask, in Objection to it, what Occasion the Government would have during the Time of a Peace, which may sometimes hold very probably for ten or twenty Years, to encumber it self with such Numbers of a Set of People, who in their Opinion must be very unnecessary ; I shall request of him, only his candid Perusal of the Whole, and doubt not but to find him much better reconcil'd to me. To acquit my self therefore as I have promised, I shall dispose my Arguments for putting in Execution what I have advanc'd, and the Benefits which I conclude must necessarily arise from it, in the following Manner.

By the Advance-Money that should be given, and the Certainty of not being dismiss'd, after any short Expedition, from his Majesty's Service, to make what Provision they can for themselves, in that of others, the Number of Voluntiers that would immediately offer themselves, would very quickly make up the List proposed ; nor would the Manner, in which they should be employ'd, even at thofe Times, when the Fleet may have a Call but for

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a very Few of them, be a less Temptation for them to enter.

As his Majesty's Docks and Yards do continually maintain a very large Number of Workmen in the several Articles relating to the Navy, one Part of the said Seamen might with little Prejudice to the Hands already employ'd, be made use of in Time of Peace, in the Work there: At first, in such Parts only of it, as may be most easily attain'd in a very little Time, till by Degrees they may arrive to such a tolerable Knowledge in the others, as will not only enable them by the Money they shall earn, to maintain themselves and Families very comfortably, but render them when requir'd to their original Province of Sailing, more useful and expert in the entire Management of every Particular belonging to the Ship; whilst the other Part of them, or as many as there may be a Call for, provided it does not exceed one Half of the Number unemploy'd in his Majesty's Fleet, shall have a Permit for a Year, to sail in such Vessels as are Coasters, or make short Voyages, such as to *France, Ireland, Norway, &c.* by which Means they will acquire such perfect Knowledge of the many Rocks and Sands that almost entirely surround

round us, that they may prove, when summoned again into his Majesty's Navy, of very important Use, even in the Quality of Pilots. And to prevent any Difficulty, or Dispute, that may arise between the Masters of such Vessels, and the King's Sailors, that want to ship themselves on board them, the Merchants or Masters bound for any such Ports as above-mention'd, shall be oblig'd to receive into their Vessels one Half of their Complement, of the King's Men, at the common Wages, who shall likewise have a written Power or Authority granted them, to ship themselves on board any Coasters or Vessels, trading as before mention'd, in any Port of *Great Britain* where they are, provided they do not exceed the Number of other Hands ship'd on board of the said Vessels. A Register may also be kept at every Port, of the Number of Hands each Vessel ships, that the Government may be assured of the punctual and ready Compliance of the Merchants or Captains, in receiving one Half of their Complement of King's Men, without any Manner of Evasion or Objection, if such offer themselves. And if it should so chance, that many of these Sailors should seek Employment all at the same Port, where there were Vessels

fels lying in Expectation of Hands, there may be such Regulations, that no one Vessel should take in more than an equal Proportion of the said Sailors. As for Instance, If three Vessels lay in the same Port, supposing each Vessel to carry ten Hands and five of his Majesty's Men should offer themselves only to one of these three Ships, they shall not be allowed to go all together in that one Vessel, but shall distribute themselves amongst the three, and that Vessel whose Lot it was to have but one, shall receive the next King's Man that comes to enter himself at that Port, as his fair Dividend. No Owners or Masters of the Vessels before-mention'd, shall prefer in their first Choice of the Hands they propose to ship, any other Sailors to those belonging to his Majesty; but if no Application is made from any of them, the Captains may be at their Discretion to receive others for the whole Voyage. And for the further Ease of the said established Number of Seamen, and to make them in every Degree more useful to the Government; after the Expiration of the Year, for which the Permit was granted to one Half of them to go into the Merchants Service, there may be an Exchange of Stations

for

for the same Length of Time, between them, and the other Half that were left and employ'd at Home. From hence, therefore, I shall dare to repeat what I have before asserted, *viz.* That the Grandeur and Security of the Nation will stand upon an immoveable and unperishable Basis; and add, That the Inconveniences which the Merchants may otherwise sustain, from having most of the Hands in their Vessels, during the Time of a War, impress'd, perhaps, just as they are clearing-out for their Voyage, and loaden with Commodities which may be in Danger of being greatly damaged by such a Retardment to their Sailing, will immediately vanish, and the Approach, or Declaration of a War, carry with it none of the ill Effects on the Apprehensions of the trading People, which it may have at present. The Number of Sailors which the Government upon this Scheme may have occasion to distribute amongst them, ought, very far from being judg'd an Act of Compulsion, to be receiv'd as the strongest Instance of its Lenity, Tenderness, and Regard for their Interest. The King's Men, it is to be presum'd, will be as good, if not better than what they may otherwise be oblig'd to take up with; nor, if any Exigency of

Affairs should constrain the Government to call off its Men into its own Service, Can they possibly think the losing a Part of their Complement an Hardship, as their Voyages will be so very short, that they may have Time enough from the first Summons of his Majesty for his Sailors to return, till the Time limited for such Return (which may be three Weeks, or a Month) to provide themselves with a Supply, and even without being necessitated to pay any such exorbitant Wages, as the Scarcity and Timidity of the Seamen during the Time of a Press exacts from them? If, as I am inform'd by some Persons, who pretend to have made a pretty exact Computation of the Number of Seamen employ'd in the home and neighbouring Trade, there may really be thirty Thousand, then, were the whole establish'd Number of his Majesty's Seamen distributed equally among the Merchants, in the room of some of the others, such Seamen would be but one Third of each Ship's Complement; so that the Merchants can neither scruple to receive so few, to the Prejudice of the other Sailors, nor think it any Grievance to part with them, when his Majesty's Occasions demand them. But I shall be cautious of dwelling

dwelling too strenuously on this Point, till I can get a better Light into the Truth of my Information ; and shall therefore proceed upon the Plan I at first proposed, and shew the other Benefits that would arise to almost every Branch of the Community, from such an Establishment.

As it is an inherent Principle in every *Englishman*, to submit with Reluctance to any Thing that seems to carry a Check upon their Liberty, and free Choice, so I would not in this Engagement to his Majesty's Service, have the Men constrained to bind themselves up either for Life, or for a long Term of Years, but chuse to leave it to their own Discretion, to quit the Service when they have an Inclination, on this easy and reasonable Condition only, that they shall be oblig'd to give a Year's Notice of their Intention, on the Failure of which, proper Penalties may be thought of to be inflicted. Such an Engagement as this, will be no more than what is enter'd into almost every Day, between Man and Man, in every Branch or Kind of Business ; but for their Encouragement, not only to enter, but to continue in the Service voluntarily, I could wish an easy Fund might be found out, whereby the Government might be enabled

enabled to cloath them from Head to Foot, once in two Years; with a Badge of the Flag of *England*, as a peculiar and honourable Distinction, from all other Sailors: Those Cloaths to be worn by such as work in the Yards, only at such Times as they shall be absent from their Work.

So many brave and skilful Men all appearing in a national Livery, cannot but affect the Minds of every thinking *British* Spectator, with the most sensible Satisfaction, when he beholds the true Protectors of the Kingdom's Grandeur and Happiness, so deservedly cherished; and every Foreigner will have the strongest Sentiments as well of our Gratitude and Policy, as of our undoubted Security. The Men themselves, when the Necessity of Affairs may have recourse to a strong Navy, will think themselves under the greatest Obligations, to repay with extraordinary Chearfulness and Bravery, such extraordinary Marks of the Nation's Bounty and Regard for them. For the first three Years, any able Seamen may be admitted upon this Establishment, not exceeding forty Years of Age, but after the said three Years none shall exceed the Age of Thirtyness.

ty. And as a further Reward and Inducement for their long Continuance in the Service, it is propos'd, that those who have serv'd for such a Quantity of Years, or done such Services as the Discretion of the Board of Admiralty, or the Commissioners shall judge worthy of it, shall receive a small Pension for Life, tho they are not any way disabled in the Service; and in case any one of them leaves a Widow, she shall enjoy for her Life one Moiety of what was before his Allowance; but if any of them quit the Service, and afterwards re-enter, they should have but half the Benefit of the Time they serv'd before. And if any of them, whilst in the Merchant's Service, should by any Accident that might happen to the Vessel, in using their Endeavours for its Safety, or otherwise, sustain any Damage in their Limbs so as to render them incapable of earning their Bread as Sailors for the future, they should be consider'd notwithstanding, as the King's Men, and receive the same Benefit of a Pension, or the Hospital, as if they had sustained such Wounds or Damage in one of the King's own Ships. And at last, to all these considerable and tempting Advantages, I would join that great and most necessary

necessary Encouragement of all, the Certainty of having their Pay, whatever Capacity they serve in, whether in Merchant-Ships or the Government's own, on the most easy Regulations both to themselves, their Creditors, Friends or Relations, who may be their Executors, or possess'd of their Powers of Attorney, without any unnecessary Delays upon Account of unjust and vexatious Claims, and free from exorbitant and unwarrantable Deductions, which have been but too frequent a Practice in former Times.

During our Wars with the *French* in our late Reigns, Complaints of this Kind were so loud, so miserable, and so numerous, that they pierc'd the Hearts of every *Englishman*, excepting such as were the principal Authors of their Oppression, and made a very guilty Gain from their Miseries.

In that melancholly Time their Hardships, I have been assured, were as great, as if some of the Persons to whom some Part of the Inspection and Management of the Naval Affairs was entrusted, had been in an actual League with the *French* to destroy them.

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That they were impress'd from their Callings at Home, or on their Return, perhaps, from a tedious *East India Voyage*, when they were big with the Hopes of refreshing themselves on Shore for a few Weeks, and regaining in their own Native Air, their Health and Vigour, which might be impair'd by a long Continuance in a Foreign Climate, was a Grievance that might easily allow of a Mitigation, and be render'd in some Part justifiable from the Necessities of the State at that time, provided they had not been forced into a Service, where, from the corrupt Management of some avaricious Persons, there was not only an Uncertainty of receiving the Pay they should be entituled to in such Service, on any reasonable Terms, but Danger of being shuffled out of the greatest Part of it, together with a Probability, from too severe a Confinement on Board the Fleet (which was sometimes for two or three Years together) of forfeiting by their Deaths the Benefit of what was due to them from the Merchants, from whose Service they were so abruptly taken, or leaving it at

least a disputable Legacy to their Widows or other Relations.

From this Inability of the Sailors to make such convenient Returns of their Pay as would have been a comfortable Subsistence to their distressed Families, the Parishes were loaded with insupportable Taxes for their Relief, whilst the Purfers were suspected and accus'd by the miserable Sufferers of burthening the Sailors with large Demands for the little Conveniences they were oblig'd to take up of them, that some, when they had the Favour of having their Accounts in some manner stated, had not, perhaps, one Farthing to receive.

To this manifest Discouragement of the Sailors, when on Board, was owing the absolute Necessity of impressing them during all those Wars, in such a violent manner, that he who could hide himself from the diligent Pursuit of a Press Gang, thought it as great a Happiness, even though he was almost starving all the while, as if he had escap'd falling into the Hands of an *Algerine Rover*.

Rover ; and the Merchants have been obliged to advance their Wages from Four and Twenty Shillings to Fifty Shillings a Month *per* Man, after the Inconvenience of waiting a long time, before even that will be a Temptation for any of them to venture. Nor were the Colliers forc'd to give less extravagant Hire in Proportion for the bringing their Vessels up the River.

I mention these Inconveniencies, which in the Times before-named affected not only the Merchants and the Seamen, but the whole Nation, not so much as an Handle for a general Declamation against the Custom of impressing Men into his Majesty's Fleet, as from a melancholly Reflection, that the sad Oeconomy at that time us'd in distributing their due Encouragement to each Sailor, should force the Government to such rough Measures, as it then did, to obtain an able One. Whereas had it been otherwise, and each Man known how to come at what he had earn'd, in a less dilatory and disadvantageous Manner, I sincerely believe that above half the Money that was allow'd for impressing

Men had been sav'd, and that abundance of Seamen would have thought the Glory of serving in the Navy preferable to some Advanc'd Wages they might gain from the Merchants.

Far be it from me to imagine, any Power in *Europe*, or even more Powers than one, formidable enough to maintain the Appearance of a War with *England* at this Time, for one Twelvemonth, much less for such a Continuance as was that of the late King *William's*, who found too many Home Enemies in Confederacy with those Abroad, to embarrass his glorious Designs for the Welfare of all *Europe*.

I am likewise as confident, that the Men in his Majesty's Service at this time have not the least Grounds for Complaint of any of the above-mentioned Hardships or Impositions on them in the Receipt of their Pay, from the Diligence, Integrity and Publick Spirit of Those who so worthily preside at the Admiralty-Board; and on that Account, were such an Establishment as I have pro-

proposed, to take Place, I could not avoid wishing, that the same prudent and generous Methods that are at present taken by them, for the Welfare of the Sailors, may be continued to succeeding Ages, by the Influence of their Example.

Thus far have I proceeded on what I judg'd of most Consequence in the Foundation of an Establishment of Ten Thousand able Sailors *in perpetuum* for his Majesty's Navy; and shall submit the Arguments I have used for promoting it, to the more able Consideration of those, who have it in their Hearts, as well as in their Power, to do every Thing that may contribute to the Welfare of the Nation.

And should any of the Methods I have ventur'd to lay down for executing what I proposed, appear to the Judgment of others, not so entirely Practicable, as I have the Zeal to imagine they may be, I am confident, the numerous Advantages which I presaged from it, for the Good of my King and Country (and which alone prompted me to this present

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Attempt) will render any Errors of that Zeal pardonable.

To be so well fortified in that most valuable Branch of *Great Britain's Security*, (its Maritime Force) as not only to be in a constant Readiness to engage in a War, but from the Reputation of such an Armament, in a Capacity to prevent the Approaches of one, appear'd to me such a desirable Blessing, that no Difficulties ought to discourage any true and honest Lover of his Country, from using his utmost Abilities to obtain it.

To give a chearful and suiting Encouragement to the Sailors, is no more than an Act of Justice and Gratitude, due to them as our Protectors, and of Prudence to our selves, as being protected and aggrandiz'd by them. And I engag'd the more strenuously in Favour of this one Point, as it is but too manifest, That from a Deficiency of such Encouragement, and the Want of Means to make some certain Provision for them, after they are discharged from on Board the Fleet, many, out of the Numbers that

that are unemploy'd, at the same Time, are oblig'd to go into foreign Service, that only great and dangerous Possibility of rendering our present Superiority over all other Nations, precarious for the Future, ev'ry foreign Realm whose Interest it is to turn its Genius to maritime Affairs, searching diligently after, and receiving greedily *English* Seamen, preferable to those of their own, or any other Nation; whilst others of them, too frequently from a Dearth of Employment, are tempted to supply their Necessities by Plundering, Robbing in the Streets, breaking-open Houses, &c. too notorious an Evidence of which, is, that at almost ev'ry Sessions at the *Old-Bailey*, there has been generally one or more Seamen amongst the People convicted of capital Crimes; nor can the Increase of Pirates but in some Degree be attributed to this Misfortune. A Prevention therefore of these Grievances is to be wish'd, as much for the Security of the Government, as for the Ease of the People.

That the Merchants should suffer as little as possible either from the Damage done to their Goods, or their

their losing some Part of the Benefit of the foreign Markets, from being detained too long in their home Ports, by the Seisure of their Men, or by being obliged to give extravagant Wages for Seamen, who perhaps may be only Foreigners, old Men, or Boys, as few others will venture themselves during the Time of a Press, should be the speediest Caution of a Government, whose Revenue is so much interested in the flourishing or oppress'd Condition of the trading Part of the Nation.

That the Parishes should not be overburthen'd by an extraordinary Charge of Poor, which must be the Case, when Persons, who are perhaps settled in a tolerable Way of Busines, able to support themselves and Families, are involuntarily hurried on Board the Fleet; and in short, That no sudden Preparations for a War, should be of such ill Consequence to the meaner Sort of People, as to diminish the Benefit of what they earn by hard Labour, by creating any advanc'd Prices on the most common Necessaries, demands the Consideration of their Superiors, not less from Humanity, than Policy.

Thus,

(25).

Thus, as I have before said, from such Regards as these being shewn for the Strength of the Kingdom, and the Felicity of all the Members of it, every Thing must flourish in the most delightful Manner: The Sovereign continue fortify'd against all Attempts of his Enemies, and the People ready to make him the most grateful Returns for their Prosperity.



E POST-

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That as I have before said from
your Reasons as before being given for
the Settlement of the Kingdoms and the
Purity of all the Members of the
Kingdom may remain in the way as
before written: The Government con-
cerning the Assembly of the
Kingdom say the People ready to make
from the most lasting Reasons for their
Purity.



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the same time to be of great service to the
Country, and to the publick interest, in
order to encourage the Men
employed in the



POSTSCRIPT.

As the Expedient above propos'd,
though approv'd of, cannot
be put in Practice to answer
any present Occasion there may
be for Seamen at this Time,
I shall humbly submit it to the Consideration of the Board of Admiralty, Whether some small Bounty-Money to be ad-
vanc'd both to the Voluntiers, and to the
Men impress'd (the Voluntiers notwithstanding to be regarded preferable to the
others,

others, though not more able or expert in Sea-Affairs) would not have these good Effects, both to encourage the Men who enter freely, and to extenuate the Hardships of those who are impress'd? As likewise, Whether a Distinction in the Wages of Voluntiers and impress'd Men, though both equally Good, would not very much lessen the Occasion for impressing them at all? As the *Dutch* have let us know for a long time that their Fishery is their principal Support, were the same to be heartily followed by *Great Britain*, we may join to the other Advantages that would arise from it, the Certainty of having always a large Employment and Nursery for a very considerable Number of fit and able Seamen.

And since I have hinted the Necessity of a Fund for maintaining Ten Thousand Seamen, in the manner I could wish they were established, (though I am of Opinion, that the Merchants would rather petition for a Tax to be levied on the Tonage of Shipping, or otherwise, as might be thought proper,

per, than continue lyable to the Inconveniencies they sustain from the Measures that are taken to impress their Sailors) I shall offer some Means whereby I am pretty positive every Article of the Expence of it may be defray'd, without the least reasonable Cause of Complaint from any one Member of the Kingdom.

Were the Lords of the Admiralty to be empower'd by Act of Parliament to drain and enclose such of the waste and direlict Lands as they can find Purchasers for on Lease for a Term of Years, at _____ *per Acre*, reserving or allowing to the Lord of the Manor, or the Persons who have the Right of Commonage, _____ *per Acre*, some Part of the Amount of the Rents of them would be sufficient to answer the whole Charge of this Establishment.

And as the supplying Greenwich Hospital with a suitable Fund, to perfect the good Design of that Institution, was recom-

commended by his most Gracious Ma-
jesty the Session of Parliament before
this, another Part might be appropri-
ated for that Use, whilst no inconside-
rable Surplus would remain to be return'd
into the Treasury towards the sinking
Fund.

So glorious and extensive a Profit be-
ing absolutely taken into the Government's
Hands, will entirely put an end to any
Disputes that may arise from the Mul-
tiplicity of Petitioners for them, and be
only Matter of Complaint to such,
who having Estates contiguous to them,
have unlawfully engross'd some Part;
and his Majesty have an Opportunity of
bestowing the Benefit of them on the
Sailors, who, of all other Persons, ap-
pear to have the strongest Title to them,
as they are a Legacy from an Element
on which they have their chiefest De-
pendance.

N. B. As there are abundance of Acres,
that are almost covered with Wa-
ter, some Part of the Ten Thou-
sand

(31)

and establish'd Sailors might be employ'd in Draining them.

F I N I S.



E R R A T U M.

IN the Advertisement following the Preface, Line the 6th; instead of 1727.
read 1726.

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